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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/Poland

SUBJECT Coal Mines in the Karvina and Poruba Districts;
Quality of Ore/Reserves/Value to Polish and
Czech Economies.

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Karvina District

2. "The Karvinn district comprises the coal mines situated at the following localities:

Karvina
Dabrowa
Sucha Gorna
Dolni Sucha
Lasy

3. "The coal exploited in these mines has a very high volatile content and is very suitable for the production of light gas. On the average, 100 kgs of this coal give at least 15 m³ of gas and 65-70% of excellent furnace coke. Heating value of Karvina coal is between 7,200 cal/kg and 7,800 cal/kg.
4. "The layers of coal in the district are usually thick, up to four meters; thin layers are rare.

Poruba District

5. "In the Poruba district (Poruba, Radvanice and Pe' vald) the layers are slightly thinner. The heating value is between 6,700 and 7,500 cal/kg, and the percentage of volatile matter is smaller, but this coal is very suitable for heating purposes: 100 kgs of coal give 63-70% of high quality heating coke and around 15 m³ of gas.

Exploitation

6. "In both these districts the methods of exploitation are on a very high technical standard and the ventilation system is excellent. Mechanization has been introduced to a high degree. Pneumatic pick-axes are used as a rule, and about 98% of coal is broken by machine power. The machines are of modern construction but they get out of order frequently.

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7. "The work in the mines is impeded by gasses and coal dust. In some mines the work goes on at the depth of over 850m, and the threat of gas explosions and of coal dust has not yet been satisfactorily solved. At the beginning of 1949 very strict rules were introduced in all the mines to increase work safety. They include rules regarding ventilation, and enforce the frequent construction of wall casements to prevent methane explosions and ignition of coal dust.
8. "The layers of coal, for the most part, have a slight dip, but there are also some layers with an almost vertical dip (eg. in the Zoria Mine, at Poruba).
9. "The mines in this area are not very large. It is aimed to keep the network of drifts as short and simple as possible, partially to prevent accidents.
10. "In the coal of this area there is a large percentage of small size coal and of dust, and therefore a large part of it requires briquetting.
11. List of Mines
"The area embraces the following mines:
 - (a) Eight mines belonging to the Cieszyn management (which is the former Karvina-Trzyniec Mining Company) with reserves of 385 million tons.
 - (b) Nine mines belonging to the Karvina management (formerly the property of Count J. Larisch-Honnich). Reserves: 300 million tons.
 - (c) Five mines belonging to the Orlova management (former Orlova-Lazy Company). Reserves: nearly 590 million tons.
 - (d) Two mines belonging to the Dabrowa management (former Betina and Eleonora Company). Reserves 147 million tons.
 - (e) Two mines belonging to the Petrvald management (former Vaclav and Eugeniusz Mines). Reserves: 271 Million tons.

Value to Czech and Polish Economies

12. "These particular mines in Czechoslovakia are of great interest to the Polish economy. According to the economic plans approved by the COMECON, they are to constitute the Czechoslovak contribution towards supplying the great joint complex of steel industry embracing Nova Huta on the Polish side and Vitkovické Zelezárny on the side of Czechoslovakia.
13. "Since April 1953, negotiations have been going on between Prague and Warsaw to settle technicalities of this collaboration and to open a flow of supplies of Czechoslovakian coal and coke to the Polish steel industry. Czechoslovakia offers almost the entire production of the Karvina and Poruba districts for this purpose.
14. "In August 1953, a delegation of technical experts left Poland for Prague to make a survey of the coal mines involved. The delegation was headed by the Engineer Adam Gutt, who works with the mining company Dolnoslaskie Zakłady Przemysłu Węglowego at Walbrzych. Gutt is a Pole but he had spent nearly two years in the Soviet Donets Basin, in specialized training. Another member of the delegation was a Soviet, Engineer Alexander Zavierev. He is an expert 'rationalisator' employed with the same Dolnoslaskie Zakłady as Gutt. The Polish delegation had a series of talks with the representatives of the Czechoslovak Government and made a tour of coal mines in Karvina and Poruba districts to determine the Czechoslovak contribution to the supply base for the proposed steel combine."

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